

Coastal Observation Technology System Project Summary – 2004

Project Name/Title: Southeast Coastal Ocean Observations Regional Association (SECOORA): Building a Regional Association Framework for the Coastal Ocean Observing System of the Southeastern United States

Date Project Initiated: October 2003

Recipient Institution: South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium

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Brief Project Summary:

The overall goal of this project is to develop a functional and cost-effective governance mechanism—SECOORA—to ensure that coastal ocean observing system efforts in the southeastern U.S. are well coordinated, science based, stakeholder driven, linked to the national backbone, and sustained for the future. This project provides for a two-way exchange of information among a broad range of regional data providers (e.g., observation and monitoring programs, modeling groups), and between data providers and targeted stakeholders to ensure continuous input and feedback from and with user groups. Year one of this effort is focused on cultivating the interest and support of a broad base of stakeholders in conceptualizing and designing the initial organization of the regional association. The year one goal is to form a provisional regional association with a signed charter to carry the association forward. Years two and three of this project will focus on strengthening SECOORA by further integrating Coastal Ocean Observing System (COOS) elements and additional stakeholders, and developing and implementing full operational capabilities.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Hired program coordinator, Sandy Eslinger.
- Established initial project team/advisory group for planning efforts.

- Conducted series of one-on-one and small-focus-group stakeholder and user interviews.
- Participated in Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) industry workshop.
- Developed project Web site.
- Developed and coordinated initial recommended priorities for national backbone enhancements.
- Developed informational materials for stakeholders.
- Conducted a pre-organizational workshop consisting of observation system providers and various stakeholder groups to develop regional priorities and establish a strategy for addressing association governance.

Current Year Objectives:

1. Undertake a review of existing organizational models for regional governance, both within and outside the marine science arena, and identify features and functions of those models that could provide the elements essential to the development of SECOORA.
2. Identify and document public and private organizations and associations, business, industries, universities, laboratories, and agencies of government with involvement or interest in generating or using data and information from observing systems in the southeastern U.S. coastal ocean.
3. Contact and brief representatives of the organizations identified in Objective 2 on the current status of coastal ocean observing system efforts in the southeastern U.S. and gauge their interest in participating in the formation of SECOORA.
4. Maintain and augment an active dialogue with representatives of Ocean.US and adjacent regional associations through the National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA) to ensure that SECOORA protocols for governance, information management and delivery, and administration are consistent with those being established at the national and regional levels.
5. Plan and convene a pre-organizational workshop involving representatives from the organizations identified in Objective 3 to discuss and reach consensus on the most appropriate organizational, management, governance, and operational elements for formalizing SECOORA.
6. Plan and convene an organizational “summit” to form a provisional regional association with a signed charter to carry the development of SECOORA forward.

Partners:

Partner Entities and Organizations:

Southeast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System (SEA-COOS)
 South Atlantic Bight Synoptic Offshore Observational Network (SABSOON)
 Carolinas Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction System (Caro-COOPS)
 Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program (CORMP)
 Neuse River Remote Monitoring and Data Acquisition Project
 FerryMon
 West Florida Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS)
 Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS)
 SEAKEYS/C-MAN Project
 East Florida Shelf Information System (EFSIS) & Explorer of the Seas
 South Florida Ocean Measurement Center
 Florida Inshore Marine Monitoring and Assessment Program (IMAP)

National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS)
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) Field Research Facility Data Program
Institute for Marine Remote Sensing (IMaRS)
South Carolina Estuarine and Coastal Assessment Program
Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Center for Coastal and Watershed Studies
USGS Water Resources Division
Sebastian Inlet Observations
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML)
Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering Program
Guana Tolomoto Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve
Southeast Regional Climate Center
Hurricane Research Division, NOAA AOML
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Coast Guard Marine Safety
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
South Carolina Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of Health
SAIC
The Weather Channel
Applied Science Associates, Inc.
Harris Maritime Communications Service
SURA
SAML
South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Clemson University College of Engineering and Science
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Research Institute
Florida Department of Health
Southeast Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE)
Florida COSEE
North Carolina Sea Grant
South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
Georgia Sea Grant
Florida Sea Grant

Initial Project Team:

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| M. Richard DeVoe | South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium Director |
| Sandy Eslinger | SECOORA Program Coordinator |
| Robert H. Bacon | Sea Grant Extension Leader, South Carolina |
| James (Jim) C. Cato, Ph.D. | Sea Grant Director, Florida |
| Madilyn Fletcher, Ph.D. | Program Manager, Caro-COOPS |
| Keith W. Gates | Sea Grant Extension Director, Georgia |
| Richard A. Jahnke, Ph.D. | Member, Oceans.US Workshop Steering Committee |

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| Mark E. Luther, Ph.D. | Member, U.S. Global Ocean Observing System Steering Committee |
| Christopher N. K. Mooers, Ph.D. | Program Manager, SEFCOE |
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| Elizabeth B. Waters | Professional Facilitator |
| Robert H. Weisberg | Principle, COMPS |